

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001694

International filing date (day/month/year)
19.04.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
17.04.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G09B23/32, G09B23/34

Applicant
LIMBS AND THINGS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001694

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:

copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	6-10
	No: Claims	1-5,11-37
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-37
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-37
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 The following documents may be referred to in this communication:

D1: US 2002/076681 A1 (LEIGHT SUSAN B ET AL) 20 June 2002 (2002-06-20)
D2: WO 02/091331 A (HAQUE PAULIN) 14 November 2002 (2002-11-14)
D3: US 4134218 A (CALVIN ADAMS) 16 November 1979 (1979-01-16)
D4: WO 02/19298 A (PUGH CARLA M) 7 March 2002 (2002-03-07)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):

A sensor (see e.g. paragraphs [0045]-[0048]) in a medical training system, the sensor comprising:

- a simulation of a body structure (e.g. a breast model), the body structure comprising at least one compartment for comprising a mobile substance ("polymer foam", paragraph [0045]; "silicone", paragraph [0097]...); and
- sensing means for detecting pressure applied to the body structure.

2.2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT with respect to each of the prior art documents D2-D4.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 18

3.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT:

As discussed above, the sensor used in the claimed medical training system is known from each of D1-D4.

Further, D1 also discloses a training system in which the simulated human anatomical structure features an outer surface and an internal cavity (see e.g.

paragraphs [0136]-[0140] in which several parts of the body falling under this definition are explicitly mentioned).

Lastly, the medical training system disclosed in D1 also features a feedback presentation unit in communication with the pressure sensing means (see e.g. paragraphs [0069], [0083], [0086], [100]...).

4 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 36

4.1 The claimed method of training examinations is known from D1, as becomes obvious from points 2 and 3 above.

5 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-17, 19-35, 37

Dependent claims 2-17, 19-35, 37 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).